



# Treatments for Hearing Loss

## Treatment options depend on hearing loss:

Most often, hearing loss treatment depends on what kind of hearing loss your child has and which specialists are the best suited to handle the treatment. Children are all different and do not respond to treatments the same way. Remember, there is no one way to treat any deaf or hard of hearing child. The only proven method of insuring the best outcomes for your child is to become involved in their treatment plans and be an advocate for them. Be sure to talk to your baby's doctors and discuss any ideas, concerns and accomplishments your child may have.



### Audiologist:

- **Hearing Tests:** Will determine the type and amount of hearing loss your child may have.
- **Ear Mold Fittings:** If your child will use a Behind the Ear (BTE) hearing aid, they will need to be fitted for new ear molds on a regular basis.
- **Programming Hearing Aids:** Once a hearing test has been completed, aids can be programmed to give the best chance for normal hearing as possible.
- **Mapping Cochlear Implants:** After the implant has healed and is turned on, periodic mapping will allow the Audiologist to program the implant so the child may hear speech and surrounding sounds.

### ENT Surgeon:

- **Cochlear Implant Surgery:** For candidates who do not benefit from a regular hearing aid, cochlear implants may provide access to speech and/or everyday sounds.
- **Bone Anchored Hearing Aid (BAHA):** A bone conduction aid is implanted into the mastoid bone. It is an option when a child cannot use a behind the ear aid.
- **Microtia & Aural atresia Repair:** Can rebuild an ear and surgically produce an ear canal in one or both ears. Children must be over 7 or 8 years old.

### Therapist:

- **Listening Skills, Spoken and Signed Language Communication:** Use a skilled therapist who will respect your

family's communication choices, provide an excellent language model to your child and offer useful strategies for your family.

### When can my baby get...

- **Hearing aids:** As early as a few weeks old - as soon as the ABR hearing test has been completed and ENT clearance obtained.
- **BCHA:** Soft-band Bone Conduction Hearing Aids can be used around 2-3 months, after the ABR hearing test has been completed and ENT clearance obtained.
- **BAHA:** A bone-anchored hearing aid is surgically implanted into the mastoid bone. It works like a BCHA and is for children 5 years and up.
- **Cochlear Implant:** 12 months, if baby has passed all preliminary testing and is a candidate.
- **Ear tubes:** 6 months and up.
- **Microtia repair:** between 7 and 9 years old, when ear is more developed.
- **Aural Atresia repair:** same as microtia repair.
- **Early Intervention:** as early as 1 month old, after ABR shows hearing loss, and baby has been referred.
- **Special education:** When your child turns 3, he/she may qualify for Special

Education preschool through your state's Department of Education.

## References

- [Bone-anchored hearing aid](#) - Wikipedia
- [Hearing Loss Type, Causes and Treatment](#) - Hearing Loss Association of America
- [Atresia Microtia Treatment](#)

## Resources

- [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](#)
- [National Association on Deafness](#)
- [The Listen Up Web](#)
- [Hands and Voices](#)

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